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Anupriya Patel, Minister of State (HFW) recently inaugurated ‘8th Indian Organ Donation Day’, organised by the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (NOTTO)

She stated, “When seen from the perspective of reason and rationale, the gift of life is the ultimate gift that one could give and organ donation is, therefore, a ‘God like act’ and needs to be encouraged.”

Dr. C. Vijaya Baskar, Minister of Health, Government of Tamil Nadu was also present at the function, Dr. Jagdish Prasad, Director General Health Services, Dr. R.K. Vats, Addl. Secretary, Health, Dr Sudhir Kumar, Joint Secretary, MoHFW; K. K. Sharma, Director General BSF; Dr. Vimal Bhandari, Director, NOTTO and senior officers from BSF, CRPF and the students and representatives of various development organizations were also present.

Urging all to come forward and donate their organs, she said that apart from promoting organ donation, it is important to improve infrastructure and capacity of Government Hospitals for undertaking transplantation so that even those who cannot afford transplantation may also benefit. She also administered the pledge to the participants to donate organs.

Minister also stated that it is important to understand that in India it is mainly the living donors who are donating organs and only about 23% of the organ transplant is being done with organs obtained from the cadavers. There is a need to promote cadaver or deceased organ donation rather than relying on living donors in order to avoid the risk of commercial trading of organs and also to avoid the inherent risk to the health of the living donor.

Dr. C. Vijaya Baskar, Minister of Health, Government of Tamil Nadu said, “happiness at the announcement of Tamil Nadu being adjudged the Best State in Organ Donation for the third time in a row.”

He highlighted the exemplary work that Tamil Nadu had done by retrieving 5933 organs from 1056 donors; and had been the first state in India for various initiatives like mandatory certification of Brain Stem Death, streamlining organ distribution and setting up green corridors. He informed the participants that Tamil Nadu is also supplying free immunosuppressant drugs and is providing sanctions of upto Rs. 35 Lakh under the Chief Minister Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme for facilitating organ transplants in the private sector.

Preeti Sudan, Secretary (Health) urged the religious leaders and youth to take forward the movement of organ donation and highlighted the importance of ownership at the highest level, and connectivity at the lowest level to build up a successful and transparent organ donation program in the country.

The best performing states of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Telangana also received awards whereas JIPMER, Puducherry was announced as the Best Budding performer in Organ Donation and Transplantation.

Yashoda Hospital, Telangana, PGI, Chandigarh and Sahidri Speciality Hospital, Pune were declared as the top three Best Hospitals in the country for their contribution.

Dr. Patricia Namitha Maria Viego and Dr. P. Periyanayagam, Tamil Nadu who are the transplant co-ordinators, Karnataka along with Sangeeta Sherawat from Safdarjung Hospital and Balram from AIIMS bagged the prizes for best transplant co-ordinators.

Non-government organisations like the Mohan Foundation, Organ India, NSS, and Kidney Foundation of India were also felicitated for their efforts.